



Environmental Educators of North Carolina

2013 Annual Report
January 1 - December 31

Empowering Educators For A Healthier Environment

ABOUT EENC



Environmental Educators of North Carolina (EENC) is North Carolina's affiliate of the North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE), an integrated network of professionals in the field of environmental education with membership throughout North America and in more than 55 countries.

EENC's mission is to promote excellence in professional development and facilitate networking opportunities, inspiring educators to create an environmentally literate citizenry.

EENC's vision is to connect diverse professionals and organizations to each other and to high quality environmental education materials and programs, demonstrating leadership in North Carolina and beyond.

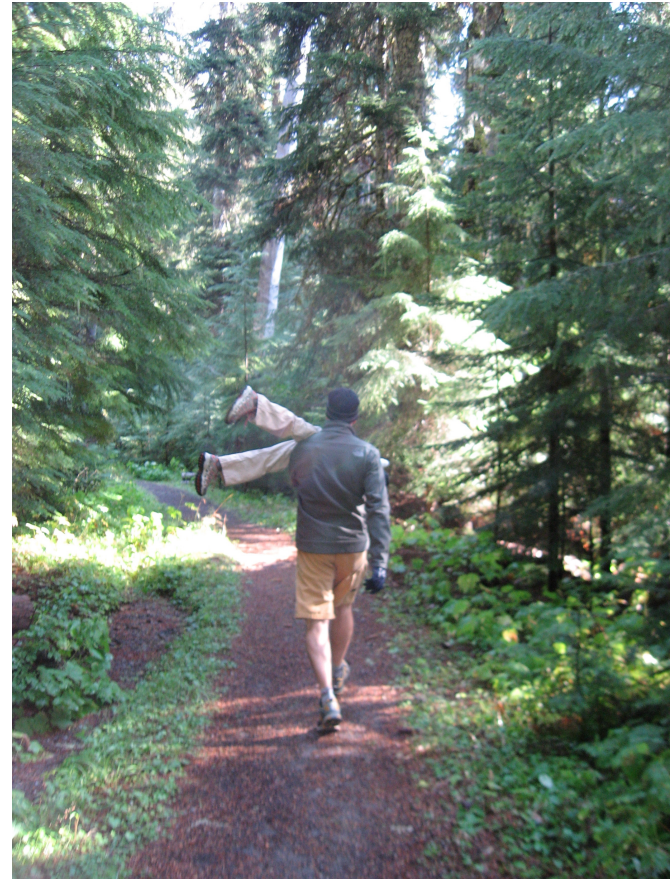
EENC is an entirely volunteer run, membership-based organization. To meet the needs of smaller groups throughout the state, North Carolina is organized into three sections: Western, Central, and Eastern. Committee & section meetings and retreats occur throughout the year and culminate at the statewide annual conference.



www.eenc.org

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2013 Board of Directors

President	Bill Crowell, Albemarle-Pamlico National Estuary Partnership
President-Elect	Brad Daniel, Montreat College
Past-President	Renee Strnad, NC State University
Treasurer	Sarah Fuller-Allman, Randolph County Schools
Secretary.....	Lauren Pyle, WNC Nature Center
Communication Chair	Chip Freund, Savvis Company
Education Co-Chairs	Eric McDuffie, CW Stanford Middle School
.....	Kathryn Stevenson, NC State University
Membership Co-Chairs	Keith Bamberger, NC Division of Air Quality
.....	Michelle Pearce, The NC Arboretum
Partnership Chair	Lori Blake, Governor Morehead School for the Blind
Policy Chair	Mary “Jo” Deck, Staurolite Resource Group
Eastern Section Co-Chairs	Kellie Lewis, NC Museum of Forestry
.....	Melissa Patrick, Cool Springs EE Center
Central Section Co-Chairs	Mir Youngquist-Thurow, Agape Center for EE
.....	Beth Cranford, NC Museum of Natural Sciences
Western Section Chair	Jonathan Marchal, The NC Arboretum
SEEA Liaison	Mickey Jo Sorrell, EENC member



President's Letter

Dear EE Colleagues,

On behalf our all-volunteer board of directors, I'd like to thank you for your continued support of our network of talented education professionals! Environmental Educators of North Carolina (EENC) is the professional organization for environmental educators in North Carolina. Your efforts continue to foster strong professional growth and networking among your peers.



Environmental
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Our 250+ member professional network continues to serve classroom teachers, museum educators, nature centers, and other professionals working to provide environmental education opportunities in North Carolina and beyond. 2013 was an exciting time for environmental education. In July, Congress reintroduced the No Child Left Inside Act, which will provide funding to states that have environmental literacy plans in place, and provide tools and strategies for building environmental literacy among preK-12 students. North Carolina is poised to hit the ground running as the NC Office of Environmental Education & Public Affairs and others are working toward adoption of our state's *Environmental Literacy Plan* by the NC Board of Education.

We held our annual conference at The North Carolina Arboretum in the great city of Asheville. The four day event highlighted the many successful environmental education programs and activities that are taking place throughout the state, and its theme, Climbing the TrEE, explored environmental education as a career path. We also recognized some of our profession's talent at the annual award ceremony.

2014 is looking to be a big year. Incoming President Dr. Brad Daniel and the board have some exciting and great ideas for the organization. Additionally, next year's conference will also serve as the regional conference for the Southeastern Environmental Education Alliance.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve on the board.

Dr. Bill Crowell
EENC President, 2013

Annual Conference

Environmental Educators of North Carolina's 2013 conference, *Climbing the TrEE*, took participants west to The NC Arboretum in Asheville. Here participants gathered for four days of workshops, field trips, conference sessions, roundtable discussions, food, and networking. Thursday workshops were followed by a regional Celebration of Science Teachers event at The NC Arboretum. Friday, participants became more familiar with the region through various field trips. Others participated in the workshops or EENC's first Wild-a-thon. The opening dinner at the arboretum's Baker Center featured an entertaining keynote by Ruby Compton of the Green River Preserve and great food by Kids at Work. This was all followed by a night hike around the arboretum.



Saturday brought an opening plenary session with presentations by Brad Ives, Assistant Secretary in the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources, and Tom Earnhardt, author and the host of UNCTV's *Exploring North Carolina* series. Concurrent sessions, geocaching, arboretum explorations, and a general membership lunch-time meeting filled the rest of the daylight hours. The fun resumed at the annual awards and live auction in downtown Asheville. Sunday provided more concurrent sessions and field trips.



Annual Awards

Each year the Environmental Educators of North Carolina publicly recognizes environmental educators, EENC members, organizations, and partners for their valuable contributions to EENC, the North Carolina community, and to the field of environmental education. EENC Members, Annual Conference Attendees, Award winners, and honored guests gathered for the 2013 EENC Annual Awards Program at the YMI Cultural Center in downtown Asheville.

The EENC Awards Program has been in existence since the founding of EENC. The 2013 winners included people who are both new to EENC and people who have been involved since the beginnings of the organization. The theme of the awards presentation this year was, “Education Heroes from the Mountains To The Sea”.

Outstanding Practitioner Award

Pat Curley

Instructional Coach- Math and Science Partnership Grant

Outstanding Practitioner recognizes a member of the Environmental Educators of North Carolina who works regularly as an environmental educator, lending their skills to the growing body of environmental education as a profession.

Pat Curley is a long time EENC member and former Board Member, and he is being recognized for enthusiasm and positive energy in supporting teachers and educators to be better at using the outdoors as a classroom. He is a strong advocate for the integration of environmental education across the curriculum and provides excellent environmentally themed workshops and resources for teachers.

The Outstanding Service Award

D’Nise Hefner

Educational Program Director, Blue Jay Point County Park

D’Nise Hefner is an EENC Lifetime member, and she received the Outstanding Service Award for her dedication and leadership roles, making a significant contribution to further the mission of EENC. From her work with the Central Section’s annual craft fair to running the silent auction at EE events and contributing to the NAAEE conference in 2011, she always represents the best in environmental education and is an unwavering advocate for EENC as an organization.



Annual Awards

Outstanding Newcomer Award

Jonathan Marchal

The North Carolina Arboretum

The Outstanding Newcomer Award is given to an Environmental Educators of North Carolina member of five years or less who has made significant contributions to EENC during his or her short time with EENC. It is difficult to imagine an individual who has given more to EENC in the last three years than Jonathan Marchal. Jonathan joined the organization, became a board member, and took on the task of co-ordinating the 2013 Annual Conference, Climbing the TrEE.

Partner Awards

Two organizations also won 2013 EENC Awards. Outstanding Partner recognizes a business, non-profit, or governmental agency that have partnered with EENC to support the mission and growth of EENC, and the Exceptional Environmental Education Program recognizes a program, education center, organization, partnership or educational system that exemplifies excellence in environmental education.

Outstanding Partner Award

North Carolina Center for the Advancement of Teaching

Peter Julius accepted the award for the North Carolina Center for the Advancement of Teaching (NCCAT). This award was truly bi-costal. The nomination recognized both the mountain and coastal NCCAT centers as a part of the goal enhance a person's awareness and commitment to environmental education. The staff is committed to providing each visiting educator, student, and member of the traveling public with a rewarding educational experience.

Exceptional Environmental Education Program Award

Appalachian Highlands Science Learning Center of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park

Susan Sachs and Emily Darling accepted the award on behalf of the National Park Service. The award recognizes the Appalachian Highlands Science Learning Center for its programs for middle and high school audiences and include teacher training workshops, a summer high school intern employment program, curriculum-based citizen science education programs and the development of publications and web-based products that tell research stories occurring in Great Smoky Mountains National Park.



Annual Awards

Environmental Educator of the Year

Lori Davis

Education Coordinator, NC Estuarine Research Reserve and NC Coastal Reserve

Environmental Educator of the Year recognizes an educator who stands out among environmental educators as a professional who exemplifies excellence in environmental education and lends credibility to the field. Through valuable contributions and professionalism, the environmental educator is regarded as an ideal example that other EE practitioners should strive to emulate. This award was given to Lori Davis, NC Coastal Reserve / National Estuarine Research Reserve.

Ms. Davis is an exceptional educator who has demonstrated leadership and commitment to engage youth and the general public in a study of the environment. She encourages students to take action while getting hands-on and knee-deep in learning about coastal issues. Lori supports innovative educational programs where formal and informal science educators can share best practices, strategies and techniques for teaching students critical thinking skills, and integrating environmental education into K-12 curriculum. Consistently delivering high-quality programs for students of all ages has earned Lori the respect and loyalty of colleagues, scientists, teachers, and school districts from across the state.



A reception for the award winners and conference attendees was held at the Colburn Earth Science Museum. EENC held a live auction as a fundraiser. At the event, attendees cracked open geodes and enjoyed beverages and food compliments of Pisgah Brewing, Highland Brewing, and Nona Mia Italian Kitchen.

Treasurer's Report

Assets

Checking	21195.83
Savings	27926.14
Total Assets	49121.97

Income

Membership	3426.85
Conference	17572.68
Development/ Grants	1912.5
Total Income	22912.03

Expenses

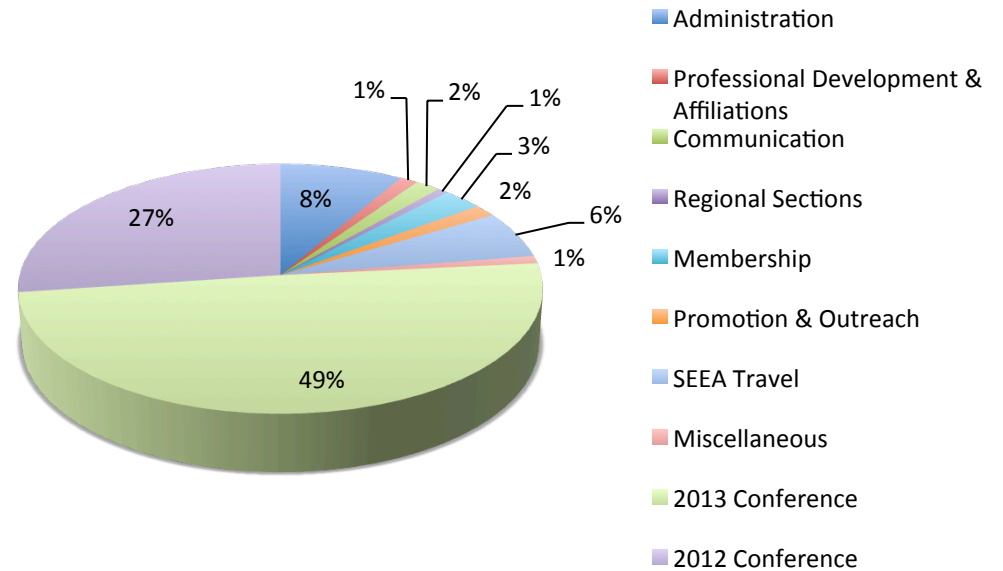
Administration	2154.1
Professional Development & Affiliations	316.34
Communication	442.02
Regional Sections	187.24
Membership	700.3
Promotion & Outreach	400
SEEA	
Travel	1543.03
Miscellaneous	250.27
2013 Conference	12620.9
2012 Conference	6945.5
Total Expenses	25559.7

Budget Balance

Total Income	22,912.03
Total Expenses	25,559.70
Budget Balance (Contingency)	(2,647.67)

In-kind Support 5,795.04

EENC 2013 Expenses



Board of Directors Meetings

For each meeting, a brief overview of the major topics is listed below. To obtain the full agenda or minutes, please contact the EENC Secretary or President.

January 26

National Whitewater Center, Charlotte

Strategic planning, new member orientation & policy review, budget review and planning, introduction to EENC Board Google site, EENC website, NCSU EE Club, 2013 & 2014 conference site selection

April 27

William B. Umstead State Park, Raleigh

2013 conference planning, logo, strategic planning, SEEA discussion

July 20

NC Arboretum, Asheville

Conference planning, website updates, membership

September 14

NC Arboretum, Asheville

General Membership Meeting

November 16

Strnad Home, Durham

Conference review, committee reports, membership, website, 2014 conference planning, regional boundaries, soil & water conference, end of year business

EENC Supporters

EENC would like to thank the following organizations for donating their support and staff time for their employees to support the EENC Board of Directors:

Agape Center for EE
Albemarle-Pamlico National Estuary Partnership
Bald Head Island Conservancy
Cool Springs EE Center
CW Stanford Middle School
Governor Morehead School for the Blind
Montreat College
NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Div. of Air Quality
NC Museum of Forestry
NC Museum of Natural Sciences
NC State University
Randolph County Schools
Staurolite Resource Group
The NC Arboretum
Western NC Nature Center

EENC Supporters

Help support environmental educators and the work they do by making a contribution to EENC or becoming actively involved in the organization. Monetary donations are essential for running the organization and its annual conference. Donations can be made online at www.eenc.org.



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EENC is an all-volunteer professional membership organization run by environmental educators for environmental educators; no matter what stage of their career they find themselves. You can help your professional organization by helping to plan and participating in local or sectional EENC events. You can also help the Board plan and conduct the annual conference, or join one of the standing committees. And though it may seem daunting, serving on the Board of Directors is an excellent way to learn about your organization.

